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EDITORIAL SECTION

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The Dentoscope

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EDITORIAL SECTION

SCHOLARSHIPS

THE recruiting of the ranks of organized dentistry has proved somewhat a task for many deserving and ambitious youth of our group during the last few years of economic insecurity. The depression has reduced many a safe income to the level of bare necessities and even privation. Self-supporting students, who, several years back, made their way through school on evening jobs, which were reasonably remunerative, are finding such places rare indeed. Moreover, with the newer developments and demands in dental education, it becomes increasingly difficult for a young man or woman to do well in his school work when he is compelled, by circumstances, to earn his entire livelihood.

Fortunately, in the College of Dentistry, many of our needy students are now receiving substantial financial aid by way of scholarship grants. These scholarships were made possible by grants from the United States Government through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, the Board of Trustees of Howard University, the Faculty of Dentistry, itself, the individual contributions of a friend and Trustee, and from the local dental organization. It may be of interest to review, briefly, the awards made during the year 1934-35.

Three students were aided through F. E. R. A. work scholarships. The recipients of these have been engaged in socially desirable projects for an allotted number of hours throughout the school year. Again, two students obtained full University tuition scholarships of one year each. These awards were made possible by the desire of the Board of Trustees of the University to stimulate high scholastic competition while, at the same time, emphasis was placed upon the relief of needy students. The Frederic Pelham Barrier Memorial Scholarship, sponsored and subscribed by the Faculty of Dentistry, provided full tuition for one student for the year. A young woman in the division of Oral Hygiene was the recipient of the Louise C. Ball scholarship which covers the full tuition expense of the course. This award is offered by Dr. Louise C. Ball, Trustee of the University. Dr. Ball also offers a full tuition scholarship for one year to the young woman interested in dentistry who presents with a superior scholarship record in all of her pre dental work. The Robert T. Freeman Dental Society of Washington, D. C., has, for a number of years, contributed its share in stim-

ulating desirable competition in dental education by offering an annual prize to the highest ranking graduate of our college. By the direction of the Society, the prize was converted into scholarship aid so that a deserving student was assisted by this means.

It is most gratifying, at this point, to be able to announce that, as this issue goes to press, the University has granted ten full tuition scholarships in addition to those already in force. Through these grants, we see not only the possibility of lightening the financial burden which, through these times, weighs more heavily than many can bear, but we glimpse an opportunity to elevate the standards of our educational program by the stimulation of competitive enterprise to the end of recruiting the ranks of organized dentistry with well-prepared doctors.

APPRECIATION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DENTOSCOPE FUND

ALONG with the November issue of *THE DENTOSCOPE*, we mailed a letter to the Alumni, inviting them to contribute a minimum of one dollar a year to the cost of publishing. While the response so far has not been so general as it might have been, we are pleased to announce that an appreciable number have responded. This invitation was extended, at first, only to Alumni, but voluntary contributions have also been received from friends in the profession who are readers of *THE DENTOSCOPE*. We are pleased to express very deep appreciation to the Alumni and friends for this material manifestation of interest in our effort. We are very hopeful that contributions will continue from both Alumni and friends, and, that the final response from the Alumni will be one hundred per cent.

The cost of publishing *THE DENTOSCOPE* is considerable, and, even if the entire group of about six hundred Alumni on our mailing list should contribute to this fund, we would still be unable to publish two numbers annually, as is our objective, without substantial aid from the College budget. The College of Dentistry has done its full share in initiating, and, in financing *THE DENTOSCOPE* to this point, as a medium of student, Alumni, faculty and professional contact and expression. Its policy is to continue the effort in this connection with increasing earnestness. However, unless there is immediate general contribution to the publishing fund, it is doubtful that the College budget can long stand the financial strain incidental to placing the publication in the hands of its readers.

With the hope that the project shall not be abandoned, we are making a strong and urgent appeal to our Alumni readers to help us carry on with this beginning in Dental Journalism. The future of this venture is boundless in possibilities of special interest to our Dental College, and, of general interest to the profession of Dentistry. Please send your contribution, IMMEDIATELY, to the Treasurer of the University, or, to the Dean of the College of Dentistry, to the credit of THE DENTOSCOPE.

MOBILIZATION FOR UNIFIED SERVICE

ONE cannot peruse the current news-organs, without being more than ordinarily conscious of the fact, that the world powers are busily engaged in parleys and counter parleys over the question of armaments, troop mobilizations, and the suggested hovering of war clouds over a very turbulent world.

Altho we are not concerned here with militarism, as it is generally understood, the word itself, and its companion, "mobilization," arouse in us the response that there is something in dentistry about which we, of the darker hue, have long been content to practice laissez-faire tactics.

In certain areas of the United States, the Negro dentist is accepted as a member in the local dental society, and, altho he is a bashful, shrinking-violet member, the fact remains that the right to join is his. Automatically, he becomes a member of the American Dental Association.

Unfortunately, in the areas in which this condition obtains, Negro dentists are sparsely distributed, since the majority of them are in the southern section of the country.

In the south, the Negro, altho properly trained and licensed, cannot become a member of the local society, and, in spite of the fact that he has made an effort to compensate this by organizing his own society, he is still not recognized by the A. D. A. to the extent that he is acceptable for membership.

There are forty-eight dental schools in the United States and Canada. Of these, two are essentially Negro schools. Approximately fifty thousand dentists are the dental health custodians of 120,000,000 people, of whom approximately 15,000,000 are Negroes.

The Negro dentists, by virtue of their exclusion from the A. D. A., are limited in their scientific growth to the media of their own dental

conventions, and their personal initiative in reading (the latter a purely abstract entity, the practical applications of which must need be of the "trial and error" variety).

It is true that the general public health, the general intellectual level and the economic status of the nation cannot rise above the mean between that of its highest and lowest social strata.

If the Negro dental societies are content to struggle in their isolated way, and to make no intelligent and concerted effort to increase the degree of their alliance with "organized dentistry"; if they are content to remain in the by-ways of dentistry, and to leave the trail-blazing to be done by others, the 15,000,000 who look to them for service in oral health procedures are doomed to a type of service that is not always modern, and, frequently, is inefficient and inadequate.

What, then, should be done?

There should be, first, a mobilization into units, the unit being the local dental society. This pre-supposes a militant leadership, one which will not rest until all ethical practitioners in a given locality have allied themselves with their society, and, are willing to do their per capita share to promote an aggressive, efficient organization.

As these integral parts are adequately organized, the next group in the chain of detail for unification is the National Dental Association. There should be a working agreement thru which the members of the smaller units (the local societies) shall become members of the N. D. A. upon enlistment into the former.

By thus backing the N. D. A., and being a part of it, added impetus is gained, the power of numbers is concentrated in a central arm, and this arm is to carry the weight of an intelligent mass lobby for recognition.

Some administration of the N. D. A., then, would have as one of its program objectives a campaign for nation-wide acceptance into the ranks of the American Dental Association.

In many ways, we, as Negro dentists, are out of touch with the wheels of the Juggernaut called "Progress." We cannot keep pace with such a rapidly growing profession by articles and other intangible media. We need and merit recognition and access to the vast accomplishments of our paler brothers. That we have not been accorded our due must be accredited, in a large measure, to our own lack of initiative and directed organization.

E. J. S.